3. To reduce the difference between the prices of diesel and kerosene for public distribution system.

Criteria allocation of Kerosene to States

3628. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down by Government for allocation of kerosene oil quota to States;

(b) whether Government of Punjab has requested Government to increase the quota of kerosene to meet the requirement of ration card holders;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when a final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Kerosene is an allocated product and annual/monthly allocation is made by the Central Government to the States/UTs for distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS). The allocation of kerosene is made on historical basis. Requests are received from various State Governments including Punjab for additional allocation of kerosene from time to time. Kerosene is a deficit product in the country and on account of constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy the distribution has to be judicious.

Raids conducted at storage depots of oil companies

3629. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted raids at the storage depots of various oil companies in the capital to check adulteration of petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, whether samples of petrol and diesel have been taken from the storage depots and sent for examination;

(c) if so, the results of investigations conducted in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure availability of diesel and petrol free from any type of adulteration throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The Government of NCT of Delhi had drawn samples of petrol and diesel from storage depots of oil marketing companies situated in Delhi on 25.2.2000. The results of the tests have been received by the Government of NCT, Delhi.

(d) The oil industry follow the laid down procedure and guidelines for ensuring quality of petroleum products during receipt, storage and despatch. Also oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks to control various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. To prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (PDS), furfural doping, filter paper test, stock reconciliation, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories etc. are undertaken by oil companies.

Quota of LPG and Kerosene allotted to Madhya Pradesh

3630. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of LPG gas connections in the different states of the country and the ratio of connections thereof;

(b) what is the quantum of LPG, kerosene to different States in last three financial years and ratio thereof;

(c) whether the quota of petroleum products specially LPG and kerosene allotted to Madhya Pradesh commensurate with the population of the State;

(d) whether Government are actively considering to increase the quota of petroleum products to Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The total number of customer population with the distribution of the PSU Oil Marketing Companies as on 1.1.2000, is about 438.88 lakhs.

(b) The State-wise SKO allocation and LPG consumption in various states in the last three years are given in Statement/I and II respectively. (*See* below)

(c) to (e) LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending upon the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available